

Closed captioning has improved over the years, though there remains problems at times with spelling and excessive delays in live captioning of the spoken word. A big problem, however, is the decision to allow captioners a choice of captioning at the top, middle and bottom of the screen. The problem with captioning in the upper portion of the screen is that the captions usually cover the face of the person speaking. This prevents lipreading and comparing what was said to what is captioned (sometimes not the same). Further, if a person with normal hearing is also watching while a person with hearing loss is reading captions, the hearing person will find it upsetting that they can't see the faces.

On sports broadcasts, captioning at the top tends to cover up a lot of the action shown on the screen. If the captioning is live and the captioner has a live feed that he or she can see while captioning, the captions can (and often are) be moved to other positions on the screen so faces or action are not covered. But if they have no broadcast feed to view, then captions at the top often cover up faces and sports action.

Unless the captioner can see the broadcast while captioning and can move captions to avoid covering faces or action, it is recommended that captions be displayed at the bottom of the screen as the primary choice. However, captioning should remain at the top for emergency broadcasts, as required by the FCC.